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FRONTISPIECE—ON COVER

THE NARROW CANAL

BEFORE I KNEW BY WHAT, OR HOW, I FOUND THAT
WE WERE GLIDING UP A STREET—A PHANTOM STREET:
THE HOUSES RISING ON BOTH SIDES, FROM THE WATER,
AND THE BLACK BOAT GLIDING ON BENEATH THEIR
WINDOWS. LIGHTS WERE SHINING FROM SOME OF
THESE CASEMENTS, PLUMBING THE DEPTH OF THE
BLACK STREAM WITH THEIR REFLECTED RAYS, BUT
ALL WAS PROFOUNDLY SILENT. *Charles Dickens.*

VENICE

THE CITY OF THE SEA
BY JOSEPH PENNELL

BEING TWENTY-FIVE REPRODUCTIONS
IN PHOTOGRAVURE, FROM DRAWINGS
& ETCHINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY NOTES
FROM THE WRITINGS OF JOHN RUSKIN,
LORD HOUGHTON, JOHN ADDINGTON
SYMONDS, BYRON, BEACONSFIELD,
D'ANNUNZIO, & OTHERS

T. N. FOULIS
LONDON & EDINBURGH

SS

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I

THE RIALTO

COULD I BUT PLACE THE READER AT THE EARLY MORNING ON THE QUAY BELOW THE RIALTO, WHEN THE MARKET BOATS, FULL LADEN, FLOAT INTO GROUPS OF GOLDEN COLOUR : AND SHOW HIM THE PURPLE OF THE GRAPES AND THE FIGS, AND THE GLOWING OF THE SCARLET GOURDS CARRIED AWAY IN LONG STREAMS UPON THE WAVES : AND AMONG THEM, THE CRIMSON FISH BASKETS, FLASHING AND SPARKLING, AND FLAMING AS THE MORNING SUN FALLS ON THEIR WET TAWNY SIDES : AND ABOVE, THE PAINTED SAILS OF THE PISHING BOATS, ORANGE AND WHITE, SCARLET AND BLUE : AND BETTER THAN ALL SUCH FLORID COLOUR, THE NAKED, BRONZED, BURNING LIMBS OF THE SEAMEN, THE LAST OF THE OLD VENETIAN RACE, WHO YET KEEP THE RIGHT GIORGIONE COLOUR ON THEIR BROWS AND BOSOMS !

John Ruskin.



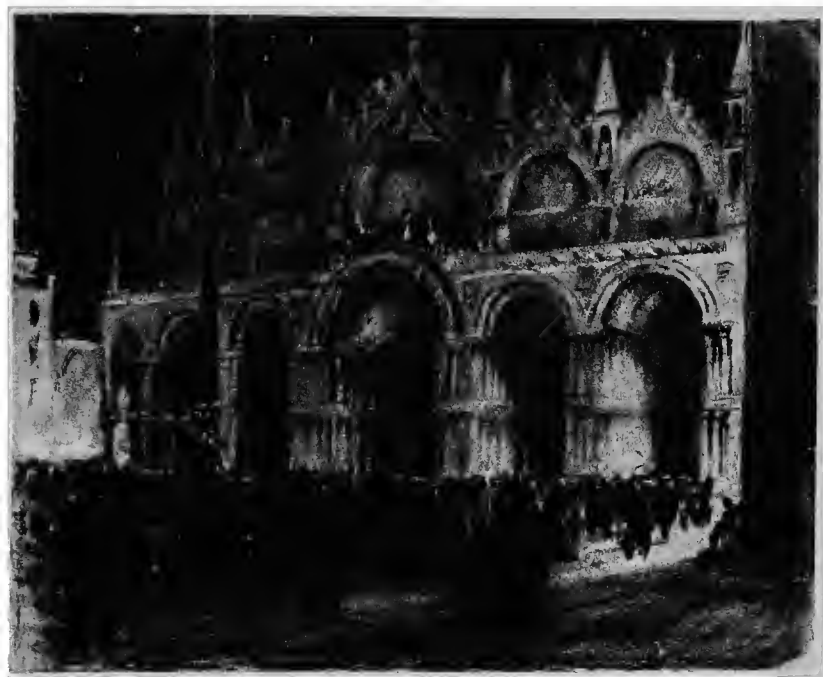
II

ST MARK'S—NIGHT

WALK IN ST MARK'S AGAIN, SOME FEW HOURS AFTER,
WHEN A BRIGHT SLEEP IS ON EACH STORIED PILE,—
WHEN FITFUL MUSIC, AND INCONSTANT LAUGHTER,
GIVE PLACE TO NATURE'S SILENT MOONLIGHT SMILE:
NOW FANCY WANTS NO FAERY GALE TO WAFT HER
TO MAGIAN HAUNT, OR CHARM-ENGIRDLED ISLE,
ALL TOO CONTENT, IN PASSIVE BLISS, TO SEE
THIS SHOW DIVINE IS VISIBLE POETRY.

ON SUCH A NIGHT AS THIS IMPASSIONEDLY
THE OLD VENETIAN SANG THOSE VERSES RARE,
"THAT VENICE MUST OF NEEDS ETERNAL BE,
FOR HEAVEN HAD LOOKED THROUGH THE
PELLUCID AIR,
AND CAST ITS REFLEX IN THE CRYSTAL SEA,
AND VENICE WAS THE IMAGE PICTURED THERE;"
I HEAR THEM NOW, AND TREMBLE, FOR I SEEM
AS TREADING ON AN UNSUBSTANTIAL DREAM.

Richard Monckton Milnes (Lord Houghton).



III

ST MARK'S—FLAGS FLYING

I HASTENED TO THE PLACE OF ST MARK. IT WAS CROWDED AND ILLUMINATED. THREE GORGEOUS FLAGS WAVED ON THE MIGHTY STAFFS WHICH ARE OPPOSITE TO THE CHURCH IN ALL THE OLD DRAWINGS, AND WHICH ONCE BORE THE STANDARDS OF CAN-DIA, AND CYPRUS, AND THE MOREA. . . . CAN THIS BE MODERN VENICE I THOUGHT? CAN THIS BE THE SILENT, AND GLOOMY AND DECAYING CITY OVER WHOSE DISHONOURABLE MISERY I HAVE SO OFTEN WEPT? ARE NOT THESE INDEED STILL SUBJECTS OF A DOGE AND STILL THE BRIDEGROOMS OF THE OCEAN.

Lord Beaconsfield.



RIVA DEGLI SCHIAVONI

ONE AFTERNOON NOT LONG AGO, RETURNING FROM THE GARDENS ALONG THE WARM BANK OF THE SCHIAVONI, THAT MUST OFTEN HAVE SEEMED TO SOME WANDERING POET LIKE I KNOW NOT WHAT GOLDEN MAGIC BRIDGE STRETCHING OUT OVER A SEA OF LIGHT AND SILENCE TO SOME INFINITE DREAM OF BEAUTY, I THOUGHT, OR RATHER I STOOD BY AND WATCHED MY OWN THOUGHTS AS I WOULD AN INTIMATE SPECTACLE, —I THOUGHT OF THE NUPTIAL ALLIANCE OF AUTUMN AND VENICE UNDER THOSE SKIES, —THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN ALTERNATES WITH SHADOWS, BUT THE LIGHT OF ART LASTS IN THE HUMAN SOUL AND CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED.

Gabriele D'Annunzio.



PALAZZO REZZONICO

THIS PALACE WAS BUILT ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BY THE REZZONICO FAMILY, WHO INTRUSTED THE WORK TO GIORGIO MASSARI, ONE OF THE BEST ARCHITECTS OF HIS TIME. IN THE HALLS OF THE PALACE THE VENETIAN REPUBLIC, IN 1769, GAVE A GRAND CONCERT IN HONOUR OF THE VISIT OF EMPEROR JOSEPH II. WHICH HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AS THE FINEST EVER HEARD IN VENICE. ROBERT BROWNING PURCHASED THE PALACE AND IN IT HE DIED IN 1889. A TABLET ERECTED ON THE BUILDING BY THE MUNICIPALITY COMMEMORATES HIS DEATH, AND THE REZZONICO IS NOW KNOWN AS THE BROWNING PALACE.



VI

THE CAMPANILE FROM THE PUBLIC GARDENS

VENICE, WHOSE NAME DID ONCE ADORN THE WORLD,
THOU MIGHT'ST HAVE BEEN ALL THAT THOU EVER
WERT,

IN FORM AND FEATURE AND MATERIAL STRENGTH,
UP FROM THE SEA, WHICH IS THY PEDESTAL,
UNTO THY CAMPANILE'S GOLDEN TOP,
AND YET HAVE NEVER WON THE PRECIOUS CROWN,
TO BE LOVED OF HUMAN HEARTS, TO BE
THE WISE MAN'S TREASURE NOW AND EVERMORE.

Richard Monckton Milnes (Lord Houghton).



VII

THE PIAZZETTA—NIGHT

HOW BEAUTIFUL IS NIGHT IN VENICE! THEN MUSIC
AND THE MOON REIGN SUPREME; THE GLITTERING
SKY REFLECTED IN THE WATERS, AND EVERY GONDOLA
GLIDING WITH SWEET SOUNDS! AROUND ON EVERY
SIDE ARE PALACES AND TEMPLES, RISING FROM THE
WAVES WHICH THEY SHADOW WITH THEIR SOLEMN
FORMS, THEIR COSTLY FRONTS RICH WITH THE SPOILS
OF KINGDOMS, AND SOFTENED WITH THE MAGIC OF
THE MIDNIGHT BEAM. THE WHOLE CITY, TOO, IS POUR-
ED FORTH FOR FESTIVAL.

Lord Beaconsfield.

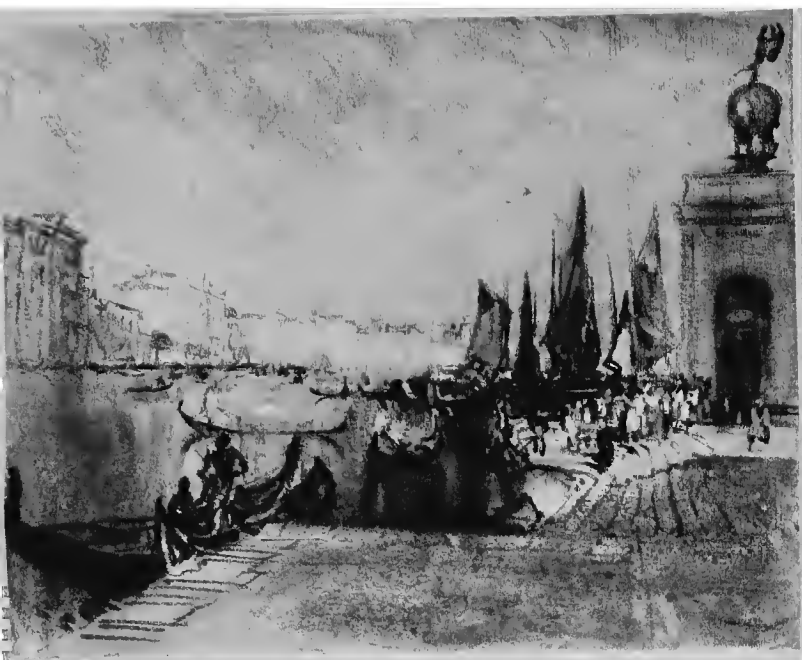


VIII

FROM THE DOGANA

ACCORDING TO RUSKIN, THE DOGANA AT THE SEPARATION OF THE GRAND CANAL FROM THE GIUDECCA IS "A BARBAROUS BUILDING OF THE TIME OF THE GROT-ESQUE RENAISSANCE, RENDERED INTERESTING ONLY BY ITS POSITION. THE STATUE OF FORTUNE FORMING THE WEATHER-COCK, STANDING ON THE WORLD IS ALIKE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE CONCEITS OF THE TIME, AND THE HOPES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE LAST DAYS OF VENICE."

John Ruskin.



IX

THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS

I STOOD IN VENICE, ON THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS;
A PALACE AND A PRISON ON EACH HAND :
I SAW FROM OUT THE WAVE HER STRUCTURES RISE
AS FROM THE STROKE OF THE ENCHANTER'S WAND :
A THOUSAND YEARS THEIR CLOUDY WINGS EXPAND
AROUND ME, AND A DYING GLORY SMILES
O'ER THE FAR TIMES WHEN MANY A SUBJECT LAND
LOOKED TO THE WINGED LION'S MARBLE PILES,
WHERE VENICE SATE IN STATE, THRONED ON HER
HUNDRED ISLES.

Lord Byron.



IN THE DOGE'S PALACE, INTERIOR

I SAW MANY BEAUTIFUL PALACES, BEGINNING WITH THE PALACE OF ST MARK, WHICH IS ALWAYS INHABITED BY THE DOGE AND HIS FAMILY. . . BESIDE THE OTHER NOTABLE THINGS IN THE SAID PALACE, I SAW A VERY LONG HALL WHOSE WALLS ARE PAINTED VERY ORNATELY. AND THERE IS PAINTED THE STORY HOW FREDERICK BARBAROSSA DROVE AWAY POPE ALEXANDER THE FOURTH, WHO FLED IN DISGUISE TO VENICE, AND WAS RECOGNISED IN A MONASTERY CALLED THE MONASTERY DELLA CARITA. THE WHOLE STORY IS REPRESENTED WITH SUCH RICHNESS AND NATURALNESS IN THE FIGURES THAT I THINK LITTLE COULD BE ADDED. THE CEILING OF THE SAID HALL IS DECORATED WITH GREAT GILDED PICTURES. IN THIS HALL SIT THE GREAT COUNCIL OF ALL THE GENTLEMEN.

Canon Pietro Casola.

*("Pilgrimage to Jerusalem in the year 1494,"
Translated by M. Margaret Newett, B.A.)*

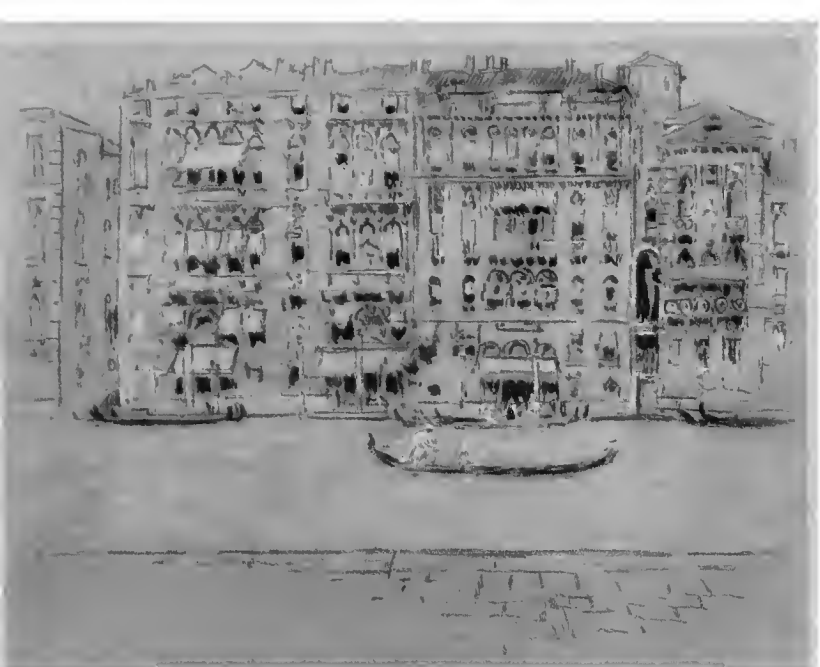


XI

THE GRAND CANAL

BUT WHATEVER SURPRISE OF MEMORABLE OR BEAUTIFUL VENICE MAY PREPARE FOR YOUR FORGETFULNESS, BE SURE IT WILL BE COMPLETE AND RESISTLESS. NAY, WHAT POTENTER MAGIC NEEDS MY VENICE TO REVIVIFY HER PAST WHENEVER SHE WILL, THAN THE SERPENT CUNNING OF HER GRAND CANAL? . . . FOR MYSELF, I MUST COUNT AS HALF LOST THE YEAR SPENT IN VENICE BEFORE I TOOK A HOUSE UPON THE GRAND CANAL. THERE ALONE CAN EXISTENCE HAVE THE PERFECT LOCAL FLAVOUR, BUT BY WHAT WITCHERY TOUCHED, ONE'S BEING SUFFERS THE COMMON SEACHANGE, TILL LIFE AT LAST SEEMS TO EBB AND FLOW WITH THE TIDE IN THAT WONDER-AVENUE OF PALACES, IT WOULD BE IDLE TO ATTEMPT TO TELL.

W. D. Howells.



THE SALUTE FROM THE GRAND CANAL

WHILST I WAS OBSERVING THEM, THE SUN BEGAN TO COLOUR THE BALUSTRADES OF THE PALACES, AND THE PURE EXHILARATING AIR OF THE MORNING DRAWING ME ABROAD, I PROCURED A GONDOLA, LAID IN MY PROVISION OF BREAD AND GRAPES, AND WAS ROWED UNDER THE RIALTO, DOWN THE GRAND CANAL, TO THE MARBLE STEPS OF S. MARIA DELLA SALUTE, ERECTED BY THE SENATE IN PERFORMANCE OF A VOW TO THE HOLY VIRGIN, WHO BEGGED OFF A TERRIBLE PESTILENCE IN 1630. I GAZED, DELIGHTED WITH ITS SUPERB FRONTISPIECE AND DOME, RELIEVED BY A CLEAR BLUE SKY.

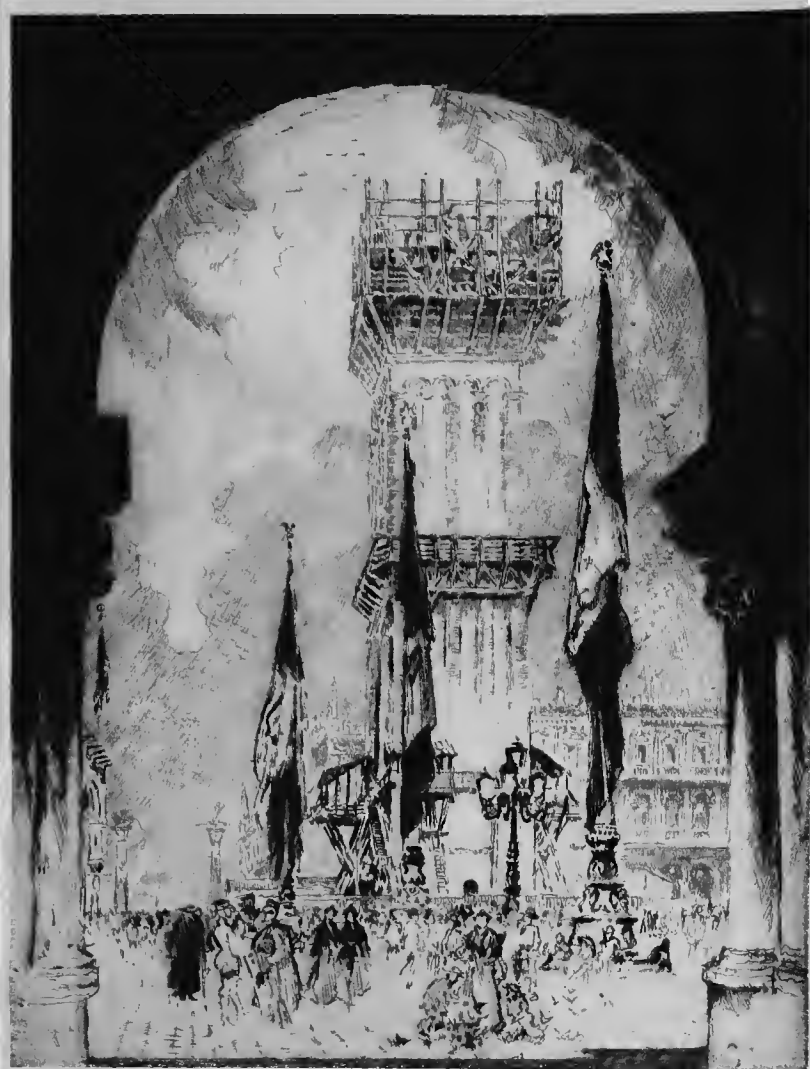
William Beckford.



XIII

THE CAMPANILE

THE CAMPANILE OF ST MARK, BEGUN IN 888, AND REBUILT IN 1329, SERVED FOR OUTLOOK AND DEFENCE. WATCHMEN, STATIONED IN THE BELL-CHAMBER AND ON THE TERRACE ABOVE IT, OBTAINED A FULL VIEW OF THE CITY AND THE SEA, AND COULD SIGNAL TO THE AUTHORITIES THE APPROACH OF GALLEYS AND MERCHANT SHIPS. IT WAS FROM THIS TOWER GALILEO DEMONSTRATED TO THE VENETIANS THE WONDERFUL POWER OF HIS TELESCOPE. THERE WERE FIVE BELLS IN THE CHAMBER OF THE CAMPANILE, EACH OF WHICH HAD ITS PARTICULAR USE. THE RINGING OF ONE CALLED TOGETHER THE GREAT COUNCIL; ANOTHER BROUGHT THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE; A THIRD WAS RUNG WHEN THE MAGISTRATES AND COUNSEL HAD TO ASSEMBLE ON THE ARRAIGNMENT OF A PERSON CHARGED WITH A CRIME; ARTISANS BEGAN WORK WHEN THEIR BELL RANG IN THE MORNING, AND LEFT OFF WHEN IT RANG AGAIN IN THE EVENING; THE WORKERS IN THE ARSENAL HAD ONE OF THEIR OWN, AND THOSE OF THEM WHO WERE NOT AT WORK BEFORE IT CEASED WERE FINED. ALL THE BELLS WERE RUNG TOGETHER WHEN TIDINGS OF A VICTORY ARRIVED, AND ON THE ELECTION AND DEATH OF A DOGE. THE CAMPANILE THUS ENTERED INTO THE LIFE OF VENICE AND JUSTIFIED THE WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN IT. THE OLD BUILDING COLLAPSED IN 1902.



XIV

THE CAFFÈ ORIENTALE

THE CAFFÈ IN ITSELF IS IN MANY RESPECTS A SPECIALITY OF VENETIAN LIFE, AND HAS BEEN SO SINCE THE DAYS OF GOLDONI. THE READERS OF HIS COMEDIES, SO ABUNDANTLY RICH IN LOCAL COLOURING, WILL NOT HAVE FAILED TO OBSERVE THAT THE CAFFÈ PLAYS A LARGER PART IN THE LIFE OF VENICE THAN IS THE CASE IN ANY OTHER CITY. PROBABLY NO VENETIAN PASSES A SINGLE DAY WITHOUT VISITING ONCE AT LEAST, IF NOT OFTENER, HIS ACCUSTOMED CAFFÈ. MEN OF BUSINESS WRITE THEIR LETTERS AND ARRANGE THEIR MEETINGS THERE. MEN OF PLEASURE KNOW THAT THEY SHALL FIND THEIR PEERS THERE. MERE LOAFERS TAKE THEIR SEATS THERE, AND GAZE AT THE STREAM OF LIFE, AS IT FLOWS PAST THEM, FOR HOURS TOGETHER. AND, MOST MARKED SPECIALITY OF ALL, VENICE IS THE ONLY CITY IN ITALY WHERE THE NATIVE FEMALE ARISTOCRACY FREQUENTS THE CAFFÈ. INDEED, I KNOW NO PLACE IN ALL THE PENINSULA WHERE SO LARGE AN AMOUNT OF ITALIAN BEAUTY MAY BE SEEN AMONG THE FASHIONABLE CROWD AT THE CAFFÈ ON A BRILLIANT MID-SUMMER NIGHT.

T. A. Trollope.



THE SALUTE, EVENING

I WENT DOWN TO THE MOLO, WHERE THE LARGE
 REACH OF THE LAGOON WAS ALL MOON-SILVERED,
 AND SAN GIORGIO MAGGIORE DARK AGAINST THE
 BLUISH SKY, AND SANTA MARIA DELLA SALUTE DOMED
 WITH MOON-IRRADIATED PEARL, AND THE WET SLABS
 OF THE RIVA SHIMMERING IN MOONLIGHT, THE WHOLE
 MISTY SKY, WITH ITS CLOUDS AND STELLAR SPACES,
 DRENCHED IN MOONLIGHT, NOTHING BUT MOONLIGHT
 SENSIBLE EXCEPT THE TAWNY FLARE OF GAS-LAMPS
 AND THE ORANGE LIGHTS OF GONDOLAS AFLOAT UPON
 THE WATERS. ON SUCH A NIGHT THE VERY SPIRIT OF
 VENICE IS ABROAD. WE FEEL WHY SHE IS CALLED THE
 BRIDE OF THE SEA.

J. A. Symonds.



THE NARROW STREET

WE FIND OURSELVES IN A PAVED ALLEY, SOME SEVEN FEET WIDE WHERE IT IS WIDEST, FULL OF PEOPLE, AND RESONANT WITH CRIES OF ITINERANT SALESMEN —A SHRIEK IN THEIR BEGINNING, AND DYING AWAY INTO A KIND OF BRAZEN RINGING, ALL THE WORSE FOR ITS CONFINEMENT BETWEEN THE HIGH HOUSES OF THE PASSAGE ALONG WHICH WE MAKE OUR WAY. OVERHEAD AN INEXTRICABLE CONFUSION OF RUGGED SHUTTERS, AND IRON BALCONIES AND CHIMNEYFLUES PUSHED OUT ON BRACKETS TO SAVE ROOM, AND ARCH-ED WINDOWS WITH PROJECTING SILLS OF ISTRIAN STONE, AND GLEAMS OF GREEN LEAVES HERE AND THERE WHERE A FIG-TREE BRANCH ESCAPES OVER A LOWER WALL FROM SOME INNER CORTILE, LEADING THE EYE UP TO THE NARROW STREAM OF BLUE SKY HIGH OVER ALL.

John Ruskin.



XVII

SAN GIORGIO

A BUILDING WHICH OWES ITS INTERESTING EFFECT
CHIEFLY TO ITS ISOLATED POSITION, BEING SEEN OVER
A GREAT SPACE OF LAGOON. . . . THE INTERIOR OF
THE CHURCH IS LIKE A LARGE ASSEMBLY ROOM, AND
WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDESERVING OF A MOMENT'S
NOTICE BUT THAT IT CONTAINS SOME MOST PRECIOUS
PICTURES.

John Ruskin.

XVIII

THE LAGOON

THE LAGOONS ARE FULL OF MYSTERIES OF LIGHT: THEY ARE A VERITABLE TREASURE GROUND OF ILLUSION. THEY ARE NOT ONE EXPANSE OF WATER OVER WHICH THE LIGHT BROODS WITH EQUABLE INFLUENCE; THEY FORM A REGION OF VARIOUS CIRCLES, AS IT WERE, OF VARIOUS DEGREES OF REMOTENESS OR TANGIBILITY. ALMOST ONE FEELS THAT EACH CIRCLE MUST BE INHABITED BY A SPIRIT APPROPRIATE TO ITSELF, AND THAT A COMMON LANGUAGE COULD NOT BE BETWEEN THEM, SO SHARP ARE THE LIMITS SET BY THE PLAY OF LIGHT.

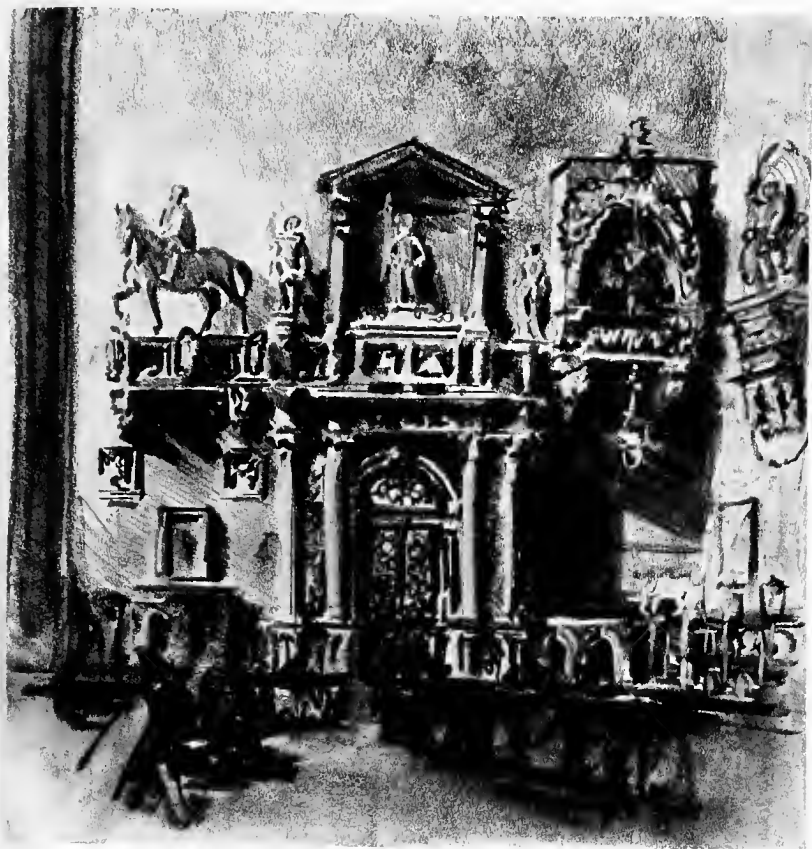
Beryl de Selincourt and Mary Sturge Henderson.



XIX

TOMBS OF THE FRARI

HERE ARE THE TOMBS OF THE DOGES RESTING FROM THEIR RULE. THEY SEEM PONDERING STILL AS THEY LIE, CARVED IN STATELY MARBLE DEATH, CONTEMPLATING THE PAST WITH THEIR CALM BROWS AND HOOKED NOSES. *Miss Thackeray (Lady Ritchie).*



THE TOWER

THE VAST TOWER OF ST MARK SEEMS TO LIFT ITSELF VISIBLY FORTH FROM THE LEVEL FIELD OF CHEQUER-ED STONES : AND, ON EACH SIDE, THE COUNTLESS ARCHES PROLONG THEMSELVES INTO RANGED SYMMETRY, AS IF THE RUGGED AND IRREGULAR HOUSES THAT PRESSED TOGETHER ABOVE US IN THE DARK ALLEY HAD BEEN STRUCK BACK INTO SUDDEN OBEDIENCE AND LOVELY ORDER, AND ALL THEIR RUDE CASEMENTS AND BROKEN WALLS HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO ARCHES CHARGED WITH GOODLY SCULPTURE AND FLUTED SHAFTS OF DELICATE STONE.

John Ruskin.



THE MUSIC BOAT

THIS EVENING I BESPOKE THE CELEBRATED SONG OF THE MARINERS, WHO SING TASSO AND ARIOSTO TO MELODIES OF THEIR OWN. THIS MUST ACTUALLY BE ORDERED, AS IT IS NOT TO BE HEARD AS A THING OF COURSE, BUT RATHER BELONGS TO THE HALF-FORGOTTEN TRADITIONS OF FORMER TIMES. I ENTERED A GONDOLA BY MOONLIGHT, WITH ONE SINGER TAKING UP THE VERSES ALTERNATELY. THE MELODY, WHICH WE KNOW THROUGH ROUSSEAU, IS OF A MIDDLE KIND, BETWEEN CHORAL AND RECITATIVE, MAINTAINING THROUGHOUT THE SAME CADENCE, WITHOUT ANY FIXED TIME. THE MODULATION IS ALSO UNIFORM, ONLY VARYING WITH A SORT OF DECLAMATION BOTH TONE AND MEASURED, ACCORDING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE VERSE.

Goethe.



XXII

THE STATUE OF COLLEONI

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A MORE GLORIOUS
WORK OF SCULPTURE EXISTING IN THE WORLD THAN
THAT EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF BARTOLOMMEO COLLE-
ONI, BY VERROCCHIO. . . . THE SET OF IT IS THE
MOST LIVING, MUSCULAR, AND RESOLUTE CONCEIV-
ABLE.

John Ruskin.



THE BRIDGE, CHIOGGIA

CHIOGGIA, LIKE VENICE, IS BUILT UPON A FOUNDATION OF WOODEN PILES. . . ONE MEETS SAILORS AND FISHERMEN AT EVERY STEP. WHOEVER APPEARS IN A PERRUQUE, OR A CLOAK, IS REGARDED AS AN ARISTOCRAT—A RICH MAN : THE CAP AND OVERCOAT ARE HERE THE INSIGNIA OF THE POOR. THE SITUATION IS CERTAINLY EXTREMELY LOVELY, BUT IT DOES NOT BEAR COMPARISON WITH VENICE.

Schiller.



XXIV

THE CAMPANILE—1911

THE NEW CAMPANILE, BUILT *Dov'era e comera* (WHERE IT WAS AND AS IT WAS) WAS INAUGURATED ON ST MARK'S DAY, APRIL 25, 1912. EXTERNALLY ONLY IS IT A REPRODUCTION OF THE OLD BUILDING. "THE PROSPECT FROM THE BELL CHAMBER AND THE TERRACE ABOVE IT, OF CITY AND LAGOON, OF ISLAND AND MAINLAND, OF BLUE SEA AND SNOW-CLAD MOUNTAIN, IS ONE UNIQUE IN NATURE AND BEAUTY, AND ONE WHICH DOES NOT READILY FADE FROM MEMORY.—*Viva San Marco.*"



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